

To: All RI cadets and their parents or guardians

Re: Glider Orientation Rides

From: LtCol Richard Courtney,
RI Glider Ride Coordinator

Date: 15 July 2015

This letter is to provide parents and guardians with some forewarning that their cadet may be given the opportunity to participate in the glider ride program, and attempt to pre-answer some questions. On July 25th or July 26th Rhode Island has the opportunity for 20 cadets to get glider rides as part of the orientation flight portion of Civil Air Patrol. The plan is to take 10 cadets on Saturday and a different 10 on Sunday. Glider rides are now controlled by the Northeast Region Glider Center of Excellence.

Glider rides take place in Springfield, VT which is a little more than a 3 hour drive, each way. This means that to start flying at 9, we need to leave before 6 am. To get as many rides as possible, the pilots may fly until 7pm or later, meaning that with a stop for dinner it is close to 11pm before your cadet gets home. Yes, I am aware of school on Monday, thus Sunday is a shorter day.

You cannot wear boots in the glider, thus tennis shoes are the choice footwear. Because we spend the day at the end of the runway they are asked to wear a brightly colored shirt—yellows, oranges and other high visibility colors that can be seen from the air against a green grass background. To keep some form of a uniform (to assist CAP senior members in keeping track of cadets) BDU pants are requested. Covers are generally not allowed on the flight areas because they tend to get blown off, however, with gliders and being outside all day, some head covering is strongly recommended.

Participating cadets should take the Aircraft Ground Handling Training which is found on the left side of e-services. Also highly recommended is Soaring Safety Foundation's Wing Runner Course: www.soaringsafety.org/school/wingrunner/toc.htm.

The cadets can bring a lunch, or as in the past we have made a run to a nearby McDonalds to pick up lunch. Dinner has been a stop at a pizza/sub shop after an hour on the road. Thus, the cadet should have some cash with them. Snacks will be allowed on the van for the trip. Pillows and blankets if the cadet really thinks they can sleep in a crowded van. 12 seat vans, 10 cadets, two senior members. There is enough down time that some homework could be done, but we do try to keep the cadets busy.

When cadets are asked if they can participate, if they are only available Saturday or Sunday is information we must have to schedule. Departure and arrival is always at Wing headquarters at Quonset. In the past we have made stops at Lincoln Mall, and other park and ride spots, to save a trip south, just to make a trip north.

When submitting their names for glider rides, cadets must make sure that they supply a phone number and e-mail that they can be contacted on Friday night in case the weather turns bad or other reasons that the event gets cancelled or changed—like they won't start until 10 so everyone gets another hour of sleep. Cadets need to have Form 60s and CAP ids on their person to go.

And yes, if you want to take your cadet to Springfield and make a weekend outing and watch, that is fine. Again, please provide contact numbers in case plans change. The airport is north of town.